Commercial Borrowing etc. IIFCL will then lend this money to viable infrastructure projects. The project should be from one of the following sectors:

(i) Roads and bridges, railways, seaports, airports, inland waterways and other transportation projects;

(ii) Power;

(iii) Urban transport, water supply, sewage, solid waste management and other physical infrastructure in urban areas;

(iv) Gas pipelines;

(v) Infrastructure projects in Special Economic Zones; and

(vi) International convention centres and other tourism infrastructure projects.

(d) The IIFCL would finance only commercially viable projects sponsored by any entity *viz.* public sector, private sector or public private partnerships. Viable projects may also include those projects, which become viable after receiving viability gap funding under a Government scheme.

(e) Does not arise.

**Loss of job due to merger of banks**

1407. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ruled out any loss of job due to impending merger of Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether Government propose to issue a directive to the banks in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) In his meeting with CEOs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) held on 3rd June 2005, the Finance Minister advised the CEOs that before considering any proposal, the Unions (of Banks) may be suitably sensitised on the need and advantages of consolidation and their apprehensions may be allayed. Further, while supporting any merger proposal, Government will ensure that the interests of the stakeholders and employees of merging banks are adequately protected. Any such proposal for consolidation by way of merger etc. of one nationalised bank with another nationalised bank has to come from the management of the banks concerned, with Government playing a supportive role as the common shareholder. The Boards of Banks have to take a decision in this regard based on the synergy levels of merging/consolidating entities.

**Rise in Sensex**

1408. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sensex rose rapidly to cross 8500 mark during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that spurt in Sensex is due to large scale investment by foreign investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the initiative taken by Government to keep a watch on the situation and its impact on social aspects of economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The stock markets have shown an upward trend over the last one year. On 1st December, 2004 the Sensex closed at 6227.83. It crossed 7000 to close at 7076.52 on 21st June, 2005. It further rose to 7669.45 on 1st August, 2005. On 3rd October, 2005, it touched 8697.65 and closed at a new high of 8994.94 on 28th November, 2005. The closing figure for 1st December, 2005 was 8944.78.